[11th October 1928

Acquisition of site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut.

* 510 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a committee to enquire and select a suitable plot for the Government headquarters hospital at Calicut; if so, who its members are and what their qualifications;

(*b*) whether any non-official of the Calicut public has been appointed as a member of the committee;

(*c*) whether the committee has submitted its report and if so what its recommendations are;

(*d*) what sites the committee visited besides the adjoining grounds belonging to the Basel Mission and what opinion they have given as to the suitability or unsuitability of each of these places and on what grounds;

(*e*) whether the committee or Government have considered the suitability of (1) the site opposite the Government hospital for women and children (the Kottaparamba site) and the question of acquiring the plots and houses near it for the purpose in view, (2) the Evans Road site, (3) the site opposite to the Christian College, and (4) the Police Superintendent's office site;

(*f*) whether the Evans Road site was recommended by the late Surgeon-General Giffard and Dr. T. M. Nair and if so, on what grounds the recommendations were based and thrown out;

(*g*) whether the hon. the Minister received a representation from the attorney of the Mission Trust of Southern India protesting against the alleged proposal to acquire the site belonging to the Basel Mission; and

(*h*) what action Government have taken thereon?

A.—(*a*) In March last the Government appointed a committee constituted as follows to examine and report on the question of the selection of a site for the Calicut Headquarter Hospital:—

(1) The Surgeon-General (Chairman).
(2) The Collector of Malabar.
(3) M.R.Ry. (now the hon.) Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar Avargal.
(4) ,, K. R. Kavalappara Muppil Nayar Avargal, M.L.C.
(5) ,, K. Krishnan Avargal, M.L.C.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes. The report is under the consideration of the Government and its contents cannot be published at present.

(*d*) *to* (*h*) The whole question is now under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"With regard to (*h*), may I ask why the Government did not include any non-official of the Calicut public in the Committee?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"One of the members who was put on the committee was well aware of the conditions in Calicut, more than any other resident of Calicut; but most unfortunately he was not able to be present."

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Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" So far as Calicut hospital is concerned are Government ready to spend eight or ten lakhs and if so, will they consider the site question with this view ? "

The hon. Mr S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The anxiety of the Government is to establish a good hospital for Calicut, and if that costs even eight or ten lakhs, Government probably will have to grant it."

Acquisition of the site for the Headquarters Hospital at Calicut.

* 511 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government in or about the year 1925 notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, for the purpose of extensions to the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut, the acquisition of the Mission Hospital for Women and Children and adjacent buildings, the site on which they stand, and the road leading thereto ;

(b) on what grounds further acquisition proceedings were abandoned ;

(c) what were the reasons for selecting the above site in preference to the site now proposed to be acquired ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the grant of Rs. 10,000 was made to the Basel Mission for construction of the hospital building for women and children ;

(e) whether a condition was laid down in the agreement between Government and the Mission that the grant should be refunded if the building was deviated to other purposes ;

(f) whether the Government as late as 1925 threatened the Mission with a demand for refund of Rs. 10,000 for breach of the condition by failure to run it as a hospital;

(g) whether the Government have informed the Mission through the Collector of Malabar that they do not propose to press for the refund ;

(h) whether the committee appointed by Government has recommended (i) that the abovementioned Mission Hospital for Women and Children should be utilized for Mission High School for girls, while the same school building with its site is to be acquired for the extension of the Government Headquarters Hospital, and (ii) that if the Mission does not accede to the acquisition proposed the proposal to reassume the grant of Rs. 10,000 alluded to above should not be dropped ; and

(i) whether there is any such proposal ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The acquisition was not proceeded with as a more suitable site was reported to be available.

(c) The site of the Mission Hospital for Women and Children was the only one which was considered at the time and there was then no question of preferring it to any other site.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(f) As the conditions on which the grant was made had not been fulfilled, the Government asked the Mission to refund the amount in accordance with its agreement.

(g) The Government accepted the plea of the Mission that the outbreak of the war and the enforced withdrawal of the members of the Basel Mission Society from the Malabar district